# Colby levels blast at Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leveling his strongest criticism ever at Congress, outgoing CIA Director William E. Colby called Friday for sharp restrictions on the number of legislators with access to intelligence secrets.

"The fewer members ... the better," Colby told the Senate Government Operations Committee in urging creation of a single committee to oversee covert operations, with criminal penalties for staff members who reveal secrets.

"The system won't work," Colby said of the present procedure by which eight congressional committees are briefed on covert operations. "Every one of the new projects that were subjected to this process has leaked into the public domain," he added in apparent reference to recent news reports about CIA operations in Angola and Itly.

"I believe it is essential to repeal that procedure and replace it by another which will include provisions for adequate secrecy," Colby said. "The sooner the better," he added later in response to a question.

A second witness, former national security adviser McGeorge Bundy, said it is wrong to attribute the disclosure of the Angolan operation to the large number of committees privy to CIA secrets. The real cause, Bundy said, "is the breakdown of the broad political consensus which made it possible 10 or 15 years ago for the CIA to conduct such large operations in the face of widespread knowledge of their existence without any admission or explanation from the U.S. government."

Bundy, who served under President John F. Kennedy, cited as an example U.S. covert operations against Cuba during the early 1960s. "The existence of this effort was widely known and ... in the climate of the time the major media and the Congress made no effort whatever to expose it in detail."

Bundy disagreed with Colby on the subject of making the CIA budget public. Colby has consistently opposed any revelation of CIA spending figures. Bundy maintained that U.S. intelligence spending is "almost surely better known to our adversaries than to us" and urged the disclosure of over-all spending figures.

In criticizing Congress for disclosing intelligence secrets, Colby flatly denied a suggestion made recently by Sen. Clifford Case, R-N.J., that the leaks were coming from the CIA in an effort to discredit the congressional committees.